

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A device for preventing an incorrect insertion of a cartridge into a cartridge storage space, the cartridge including a housing that has a recessed part opened to one side of the cartridge and disposed at positions other than a central position of the cartridge, and ~~containing either a magnetic tape reel or an optical disk,~~ the recessed part being used for inserting a reel base that engages with the magnetic tape reel ~~or the recessed part being used for inserting a rotary drive spindle motor for the optical disk,~~ said device comprising:

a claw operable to protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge only when the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation; and

a stopper operable to work with said claw such that when said claw protrudes into the recessed part of the cartridge, said stopper is disposed to allow the cartridge to be inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space, and when said claw

does not protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge, said stopper is disposed to prevent the cartridge from being inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 13, the cartridge being inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation when the cartridge is inserted from a predetermined direction into the cartridge storage space.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a joint part operable to join said claw with said stopper, said joint part being disposed to rock on a shaft as a fulcrum.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A device as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a plurality of at least one of said claw and said stopper.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A device for preventing an incorrect insertion of a cartridge into a cartridge storage space, the cartridge including ~~an information recording medium disposed within a housing, the housing~~ having a recessed part opened to one side of the cartridge and disposed at positions other than a central position of the cartridge, and a magnetic tape reel, the recessed part being used for inserting a reel base that engaged with the magnetic tape reel, said device comprising:

a claw operable to protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge only when the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation;

a claw position detecting part, having a switch the state of which is switched based on a position of said claw, operable to detect [[when]] whether or not said claw protrudes and does not protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge based on the state of said switch, and output a detection result indicating whether or not said claw protrudes into the recessed part; and

a determining part operable to determine ~~whether that~~ the insertion of the cartridge is in a correct orientation ~~based on the detection result of said claw position detecting part when~~ the inputted detection result from said claw position detecting

part indicates that said claw protrudes into the recessed part,
and to determine that the insertion of the cartridge is in an
incorrect orientation when the inputted detection result from
said claw position detecting part indicates that said claw
protrude does not into the recessed part; and

said determining part operable to activate at least one of:
a suspension operation to suspend the insertion; an operation to
provide information of an incorrect insertion; and an ejection
operation to eject the cartridge from the cartridge storage
space, when said determining part determines that the insertion
of the cartridge is not in a correct orientation.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A device as claimed in
claim 18, the cartridge being inserted into the cartridge
storage space in a correct orientation when the cartridge is
inserted from a predetermined direction into the cartridge
storage space.

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A cartridge changer for
performing cartridge changing and preventing an incorrect
insertion of a cartridge into a cartridge storage space, the

cartridge including a housing that has a recessed part opened to one side of the cartridge and disposed at positions other than a central position of the cartridge, and ~~containing either a magnetic tape reel or an optical disk,~~ the recessed part being used for inserting a reel base that engages with the magnetic tape reel ~~or the recessed part being used for inserting a rotary drive spindle motor for the optical disk,~~ said cartridge changer comprising:

a plurality of cartridge storage parts each of which includes the cartridge storage space for mounting the cartridge;

a moving mechanism operable to move a selected one of said plurality of cartridge storage parts from a first position, at which the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space, to a second position which is different than the first position; and

a device disposed in at least one of the first position, the second position, and the plurality of cartridge storage parts, said device comprising:

a claw operable to protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge only when the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation; and

a stopper operable to work with said claw such that when said claw protrudes into the recessed part of the cartridge,

said stopper is disposed to allow the cartridge to be inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space, and when said claw does not protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge, said stopper is disposed to prevent the cartridge from being inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): A cartridge changer as claimed in claim 21, the cartridge being inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation when the cartridge is inserted from its backside into the cartridge storage space.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A cartridge changer as claimed in claim 21, the second position being adjacent to a cartridge inserting point of a cartridge control device used for recording information to and/or reproducing information from ~~the optical disk or magnetic tape~~ contained on magnetic tape reel.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A cartridge changer as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a cartridge control device disposed in a position adjacent to the second position, said cartridge control device comprising:

a second cartridge storage part for mounting the cartridge;
and

a control part operable to record information to and/or
reproduce information from ~~the optical disk or~~ magnetic tape
contained on magnetic tape reel.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A cartridge changer as
claimed in claim 24, said cartridge control device further
comprising a second device operable to prevent an incorrect
insertion of the cartridge into said second cartridge storage
part.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A cartridge changer as
claimed in claim 25, said second device being operable to detect
that the cartridge has been inserted into said second cartridge
storage part in an incorrect orientation.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A cartridge changer as
claimed in claim 26, the cartridge being inserted into said
second cartridge storage part in a correct orientation when the
cartridge is inserted from its foreside into said second
cartridge storage part.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): A cartridge changer as claimed in claim 25, said second device containing a projection for preventing the incorrect insertion of the cartridge into said second cartridge storage part, wherein a notch provided on a corner of the cartridge must be aligned with said projection for correct insertion.

Claims 29-43 (Canceled)

Claim 44 (Currently amended): A device for preventing an incorrect insertion of a cartridge into a cartridge storage space, the cartridge including ~~an information recording medium disposed within a housing that has a recessed part~~ opened to one side of the cartridge and disposed at positions other than a central position of the cartridge, and a magnetic tape reel, the recessed part being used for inserting a reel base that engaged with the magnetic tape reel, said device comprising:

a claw operable to protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge only when the cartridge is inserted into the cartridge storage space in a correct orientation;

a stopper operable to work with said claw such that when said claw protrudes into the recessed part of the cartridge, said stopper is disposed to allow the cartridge to be inserted

and stored in the cartridge storage space, and when said claw does not protrude into the recessed part of the cartridge, said stopper is disposed to prevent the cartridge from being inserted and stored in the cartridge storage space; and

a determining part operable to ~~provide information of incorrect insertion when~~ determine that the insertion of the cartridge is not in a correct orientation when said claw protrudes into the recessed part, and to determine that insertion of the cartridge is in an incorrect orientation when the inputted detection result from said claw position detecting part indicates that said claw protrude does not into the recessed part.